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Inside Information

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AG IN THE CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

"Ag in the Classroom Notes," a newsletter published bi-monthly, tells about Ag in the Classroom activities across the country. It also lists resource materials, and gives ideas about increasing and improving what is taught about agriculture in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Ag in the Classroom is a grass roots program to help students acquire enough knowledge to function effectively as agriculturally literate citizens supportive of wise agricultural policies and programs. The program is carried out primarily in each State by a group composed of representatives from farm organizations and agribusiness groups, educators, and government officials.

USDA's role is to support these State groups. USDA helps States develop effective programs and serves as the central point for exchange of materials and information among the State programs.

The newsletter goes to individuals involved in initiating and carrying out State programs, to educators, government officials, and agriculturalists.

For a copy of "Ag in the Classroom Notes," write to Shirley Traxler, Director, Ag in the Classroom, USDA, 232-W, Washington, DC 20250.

TROUBLES WITH 'USDA ONLINE'

Users of the "USDA Online" service provided by USDA's Office of Information through the computer services of ITT Dialcom Incorporated have had problems recently accessing the popular "AG a.m.," national news releases, and some of the economic or statistical reports.

This happened when automatic electronic transfer of USDA information from the new Martin Marietta Data Systems' computer to the ITT Dialcom computer was inaugurated.

A "glitch" in the MMDS software prevents the Dialcom computer (and probably others) to pick up all items. It was discovered after the new transfer system was started.

The problem is being worked on by MMDS technicians and should be corrected soon. In the meantime, the OI News Division has resumed loading news releases directly into the Dialcom computer until the problem at MMDS is corrected.

Any problems with the "USDA Online" service should be reported immediately to Russell Forte (AGR010) or Stan Prochaska (AGR002), Special Programs Division, Office of Information, or call (202) 447-7454.

WHITTEN HONORED AT CEREMONY

U.S. Representative Jamie L. Whitten (Miss.), was honored at a ceremony to rename the U.S. Agricultural Research Service's laboratories at Stoneville, Miss., the "Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center."

The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Delta Council, a group of agribusiness and political leaders.

USDA Agricultural Research Service Administrator Terry B. Kinney, Jr., who spoke at the ceremony, said the center has a staff of 47 scientists and 124 support personnel with an annual operating budget of about \$7 million.

Major projects at the center include studies on cotton physiology and genetics, field crops mechanization, field crop insect management, weed sciences, soybean production, and cotton ginning. The center also serves as ARS' administrative headquarters for the five-State Mid-South area.

NEWS FROM INFORMATION MEDIA

Grassroots California, an electronic information service, now offers its Kern County agribusiness subscribers the ability to file "notices of intent" electronically. Subscribers can file their notices to apply restricted chemicals, a procedure required by California law, through Grassroots' electronic messaging service.

When a Grassroots subscriber files an electronic notice of intent, the information goes directly to the Kern County agriculture commissioner's office. This gives growers decision-making time, because chemical applications, if accepted, cannot start until 24 hours after an intent has been filed. Plans are being made by Grassroots, to offer the service to Tulare County subscribers.

Meanwhile, Farmail, the direct mail marketing service of FARM JOURNAL, has announced availability of two lists: Computer Owners & Prospective Buyers and Computer Information Seekers. Names on each list are qualified farm operators, and are updated daily. For more information, contact Joel Turner at (215) 829-4745, or Mark Sanborn at (215) 829-4709.

And, ABC Publishing of New York, has appointed Gary Ingersoll, former publisher of COMPUTE! magazine, as president of ABC Publishing Agricultural Group. Ingersoll will supervise the regional consolidation of the company's Miller Publishing, Farm Progress Unit and Hitchcock Publishing Division.

PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

"Small Farms Systems in the Caribbean," the proceedings of the 20th annual meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society held October 21-26, 1984, in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, are available. The proceedings were edited by Robert Webb, Walter Knausenberger, and Lisa Yntema.

To order a copy of the proceedings, send \$15 to: Editor, Caribbean Food Crops Society, Rt. 2, Box 10051, Kingshill, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00850.

INSIDE INFORMATION is published for distribution to public affairs and information staff members of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, its agencies, State Departments of Agriculture and Land Grant Universities. Any items, comments or inquiries should be sent to Denver Browning or Nancy Bevis, Office of Information, Room 536-A, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 or send to AGR209 or AGR001 mailboxes on the ITT Dialcom system, or call (202) 447-7454.

